Clinical and Translational Science Pilot Program

Program Overview

The Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) Pilot Program invests in investigators with innovative ideas and established scientists expanding their domain expertise. We support pilot projects that will pilot innovative approaches for addressing important roadblocks in translational science with a focus on the Academic Learning Health System (aLHS). While addressing these translational roadblocks, these projects will also apply a health equity lens and facilitate multidisciplinary, team-based, and patient-centric science that is broadly generalizable.

The CTS Pilot Program supports two RFAs each year: The **Science of Translation** RFA and the **Translational Research** RFA. Both RFAs aim to fund one-year pilot projects at $40,000 each.

Science of Translation Pilots

The purpose of the Science of Translation RFA is to support new and innovative research projects relevant to the science of translation. These pilot projects must be focused on **advancing translational science** and not just be translational in nature. They must be focused on **understanding a scientific or operational principle underlying a step of the translational process with the goal of laying the scientific foundation for improvements in translational efficiency that will accelerate the realization of interventions that improve human health**.

Characteristics of Successful Science of Translation projects:

- Evaluates an underlying translational science principle
- Addresses a real problem facing the health system
- Involves the development of practices, treatments, tools or approaches that will improve care (e.g., Does tailoring digital reminders improve medication adherence in older adults?)
- Inclusion of both a skilled researcher and clinician who contribute to designing and implementing the approach
- Research methods used by the project balance rigor with practicality
- Results are delivered in a timely fashion
- Analysis of clinical data is a central aspect of the project
- Results from the learning process are disseminated throughout the organization in a manner that leads to better patient care and improved organizational practices and policies

Translational Research Pilots

The purpose of the Translational Research RFA is to support high impact pilot projects that focus on **catalyzing the translation of discoveries to treatments or the delivery of care**. The ultimate aim of this RFA is to make **research investments that maximize healthcare value and improve population health**. These projects should fall into one of the Translational Science Spectrum categories (Basic Research, Preclinical Research, Clinical Research, Clinical Implementation, Public Health).

Characteristics of Successful Translational Research projects:

- How the proposed project advances research in a particular field to address health care needs within the population
- A rationale and potential for generalizability (if applicable)
- How the proposed project is translational
- Address next steps for this project:
  - Will it lead to larger, subsequent grant applications (be specific: indicate RFA you will submit to and when)?
  - Can it be applied to improve health or how we deliver care?
  - How will results be disseminated?
  - Is the project scalable?
  - Consider the full range of possibilities for how the health system and/or our community will benefit

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